

"REESTABLISHING THE LINK"

**THE NEED FOR TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE
PLANNING TO SUPPORT INCREASED
PUBLIC TRANSIT USE IN SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

A DISCUSSION PAPER



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INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, provides the current federal funding and policy guidance for highway, transit, freight, pedestrian and bicycle planning in the United States. A key aspect of ISTEA is the policy goal of linking transportation and land use planning at the state, area and local levels. The intent of this linkage is to promote better transportation plans and projects through thorough consideration of land use, public facility, environmental quality and community development needs and objectives, including open public involvement throughout the planning process. This approach is in contrast with much of the past land use and transportation planning, which was often done in a vacuum.

In this regard, through the cooperative forum provided by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and various task forces established by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) has advocated the need for effective transportation/land use planning at all governmental levels. SEPTA believes the benefits of coordinated transportation and land use planning will yield more livable and sustainable communities, while at the same time, enhancing the prospects for public transit services and facilities as alternatives to total reliance on the private automobile for regional mobility.

This discussion paper is intended to provide the reader with background on the state of land use planning in the region and the Commonwealth, while also reviewing the problems that have resulted from "business as usual" and the opportunities that "reestablishing the link" can create for the future. Reactions and questions about the paper are welcome; comments can be sent to SEPTA, Long Range Planning Department, 1234 Market Street, 9th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

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I. PERSPECTIVES ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Growth and development Three words that represent different things to different people. It depends on your point of view:

Chamber of Commerce: To the local chamber of commerce growth and development means prosperity, jobs, profits and good times.

Developer: To the developer growth and development also mean good times, the ability to develop land, to provide residential, commercial or industrial buildings for prospective owners or tenants and the opportunity to share in the economic advancement of their community, county and region.

Elected Official: To the elected official growth and development can have two sides: one quite positive and one potentially negative. From the positive perspective, elected officials want to promote their community to generate tax revenues and to encourage jobs and prosperity. In this regard they share the viewpoints of the chamber of commerce and the developer. On the other hand, the elected official must also be mindful of the concerns of their constituents and the overall quality of life in their community. They have to see it both ways, because they need to be concerned about both the **short term** and the **long term** consequences of growth and development.

